BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL, CONTOIS AUDITORIUM *OR*
REMOTE MEETING WITH CALL-IN
BURLINGTON, VERMONT
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 24, 2024
DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joan Shannon (at 6:34 PM)
Sarah E Carpenter
Mark Barlow
Gene Bergman
Ben Traverse
Tim Doherty (via Zoom)
Melo Grant
Carter Neubieser
Joe Kane
Becca Brown McKnight
Evan Litwin
Marek Broderick

OTHERS PRESENT:

Emma Mulvaney-Stanak
Erin Jacobsen
Joe Magee
Katherine Schad
Joe McNeil
Lori Olberg
Keaton Knowles
Nic Longo
Marie Friedman
Larry Lackey
Jeff Bartley
Hannah Dusablon

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1. CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by City Council President Traverse at 6:34 PM.

MOTION by Councilor Bergman, SECOND by Councilor Broderick, to adopt the agenda.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. PUBLIC FORUM: TIME CERTAIN: 6:45 PM

2.1. Verbal Comments
Forum opened at 6:43 PM.

COMMENTS:
Burlington residents (in person):

- Dave Maher showed data on the correlation between the effects of social policy (liberal versus conservative) and rates of homelessness. He said that liberal states tend to have a higher homeless rate than the conservative states in the U.S. He showed other trends that indicate that this is not due to housing availability, but said he believes this is due to generous services and lenient treatment provided by more liberal states.
- Ryan Nick said that in the last 90 minutes, a group of concerned citizens stopped two thefts and recovered about $4,000 of stolen goods from a Church Street retailer. He asked whether citizens are expected to prevent retail thefts from known, repeat offenders on a daily and hourly basis. He asked whether citizens are expected to feel unsafe in the main parking garage downtown. He asked whether citizens should expect to find human feces in the one elevator in that garage, and asked when they can expect the two stairwells of that garage to reopen. He asked whether downtown employees and business-owners should be expected to respond daily to mental health and public safety crises. He said that these issues are caused by between 50-100 repeat violent offenders.
- Jane McDougal asked for more details about the Champlain Parkway, how it will be connected and to where. She said that residents need more sidewalk improvements as well.
- Michael Nedel spoke about the spurious activity occurring regularly near the Elmwood Shelter pods, and asked that a regular patrol of that area be conducted. He also spoke about property tax increases and said it would be good to have some sort of rebate for landlords who keep their rents low to help with affordability in the city.

Burlington residents (via Zoom):

- Sharon Bushor said that tonight's actions will set the stage for the year, the services people get, and the quality of life in Burlington. She spoke about how the Mayor's budget shares the burden of revenue raising among residents and businesses. She also spoke about the focus of this budget to inclusion and equity of services. She thanked the Mayor for her collaborative efforts with each member of the City Council.

Non-Burlington residents (in person):

- Keren Sita spoke about every Vermonter's constitutional right to happiness under Article One. She spoke about Vermont's recognition of the struggles of its rural communities, the empowerment of women, and reminded people that violence hurts a community.

Forum closed at 6:55 PM.

3. CLIMATE EMERGENCY REPORTS

3.1 Verbal Reports
None.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY EMERGENCY UPDATES

4.1 Verbal Reports

Councilor Grant noted that the Public Safety Committee meetings are not broadcasted by Town Meeting TV, and said that she has not pushed to have these meetings added to Town Meeting TV's contract, given the fiscal constraints for the City. She noted that the meeting recordings are available on CivicClerk, even though they are not filmed by Town Meeting TV. She said that the Committee's July meeting will focus on recruitment, retention, the lack of traffic enforcement in the City, and plans by the Fire Department to coordinate with other community partners to offer medically assisted treatment to those experiencing overdoses who do not want to be transported to the hospital.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Motion to adopt the consent agenda (as amended) and take the actions indicated

5.2 Communication: C/T Office, re: Accountability List – waive the reading, accept the communication, and place it on file.

5.3 Proposed DPW ROW Technician I & II Working Foreperson I & II Upward Tiering – DPW – approve and authorize: 1. Retitling and tiering of the Street Maintenance Worker, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 14 position as follows: a. Right-of-Way Field Technician I, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 14 position. This will be the first of two tiers for this position; and b. Right-of-Way Field Technician II, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 15 position. This will be the second of two tiers for this position; 2. Retitling and tiering of the Street Maintenance Working Foreman: a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 16 position as follows: a. Right-of-Way Field Technician/Working Foreperson I, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 16 position. This will be the first of two tiers for this position; and b. Right-of-Way Field Technician/Working Foreperson II, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 17 position. This will be the second of two tiers for this position.

5.4 Reclassification of one (1) DPW – Technical Services Position – DPW - approve the reclassification of the Public Works Project Accountant, Technical Services: a Regular, Full-Time, Non-Exempt, AFSCME, Grade 16 position to a Billing and Administrative Accountant, Technical Services; a Regular, Full-Time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 17 position.

5.5 Vermont Gas Systems Franchise Agreement – DPW - approve the Franchise Agreement between the City and Vermont Gas Systems Inc., in order to execute a new agreement through June 30, 2029, granting use of the City right-of-way for utility infrastructure and annual payments of franchise fees as detailed in the agreement; and, to recommend the Mayor to execute the Franchise Agreement in substantial conformity with the Agreement attached—subject to approval by the City Attorney's Office—on behalf of the City of Burlington.

5.6 Authorization to Execute a Contract with BP Wastewater Services, LLC for Catch Basin Cleaning Services – DPW/Water Resources – approve and authorize Chapin Spencer, the Director of Public Works, to execute a contract with BP Wastewater Services, LLC with a maximum limiting amount of $63,875 for catch basin cleaning services in Fiscal Year 2025, with the option to renew the contract for one additional 1-year term, subject to review by the City Attorney's Office.

5.7 Water Resources Wastewater Personnel Reorganization – Various – DPW/Water Resources - approve the: 1. Reclassification of the Wastewater Plant Operator, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 17 position, to the tiered Wastewater Plant Operator I/II position as follows: a. Wastewater Plant Operator I, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 17 position, the first of two tiers for this position; and b. Wastewater Plant Operator II, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 18 position, the second of two tiers for this position; 2. Reclassification of the Senior Plant Operator – Main, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 18 position, to Senior Plant Operator – Main, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 19 position; 3. Reclassification and retitling of one Wastewater Plant Operator, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 17 position to Senior Plant Operator – North and East, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 19 position; 4. Reclassification of the Senior Plant Mechanic, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 18 position to Senior Plant Mechanic, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 19 position; 5. Creation of a Collection System Maintenance Manager, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 20 position; 6. Reclassification, retitling, and reorganization of one Street Maintenance Division to Senior Collection System Operator, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 14 position in the Maintenance Division to Senior Collection System Operator, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 17 position in the Water Resources Division, reporting to the Collection System Maintenance Manager; 7. Reclassification, retitling, and reorganization of two Street Maintenance Workers, Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 14 positions in the Maintenance Division to a tiered Collection System

Operator I/II position in the Water Resources Division reporting to the Collection System Maintenance Manager, as follows: a. Collection System Operator I, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 15 position, the first of two tiers for this position; and b. Collection System Operator II, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 16 position, the second of two tiers for this position; 8. Reclassification, retitling, and reorganization of one Wastewater Plant Operator, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 17 position reporting to the Chief of North, East, and Pump Stations to Lead Pump Station Operator, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 18 position reporting to the Collection System Maintenance Manager; 9. Redescription, retitling, and reorganization of one Wastewater Plant Operator, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 17 position reporting to the Chief of North, East, and Pump Stations to Pump Station Operator, a Regular, Full-time, Non-Exempt, AFCSME, Grade 17 position reporting to the Collection System Maintenance Manager; and further, to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to approve budget neutral amendments to the FY25 Wastewater and Stormwater budgets to move budgeted amounts from Salaries and Wages Total Compensation Contingency lines 480-19-425-000.5000_910 and 245-19-000.5000_910 to the appropriate personnel and benefits expense lines as needed to implement the above actions.

5.8 Annual Report of the Burlington Conservation Board – Fiscal Year 2023: June 30, 2022 – July 1, 2023 – waive the reading, accept the report, and place it on file.

5.9 Three FY'24 Parking-Related Budget Amendments – DPW/Parking and Traffic – authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to implement FY24 budget amendments, in substantial conformance with the following: Parking Services budget amendment dated May 31, 2024 in the amount of $66,699; Parking Facilities budget amendment dated May 31, 2024 in the amount of $61,000; Traffic Fund Budget amendment dated May 28, 2024 in the amount of $130,000.

5.10 Reclassification of one position, the Lead Urban Park Ranger, in the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront – BPRW - approve and authorize the reclassification of the Lead Urban Park Ranger, a regular, full-time, non-exempt, AFCSME, Grade 16 position, to a regular, full-time, non-exempt, AFCSME, Grade 17 position in the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront, and further authorize back pay in the amount of $9,196.86 to the incumbent retroactive to May 16, 2022.

5.11 BPRW Budget Neutral Amendments – BPRW – approve and authorize the budget neutral adjustments as detailed in the attached budget amendment forms, in furtherance of funding security needs at North Beach, and further authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to effect all necessary transfers of funds to carry out such amendments, subject to the final review and approval of the Chief Administrative Officer.

5.12 Contract Renewal for Continuing Engagement with Managed Security Services Provider – I&T – approve and authorize the Chief Innovation Officer to execute a two-year contract with a vendor identified through the 2018 RFP Process seeking MSSPs to provide managed security services in an amount up to $110,000 (paid in two annual installments), subject to contract approval by the City Attorney's Office.

5.13 Innovation & Technology Position Changes – I&T/HR - approve the: 1. Eliminate the open but unfilled IT Project Manager position, a Regular-Full-Time, Exempt, Non-Union, Market Factor position that was recently vacated by retirement; 2. Eliminate the open but unfilled Technology Support Specialist position, a Regular, Full-Time, Union, Non-Exempt, Market Factor position; and 3. Create a new Cybersecurity Analyst Position, a Regular, Full-Time, Non-Union, Grade 19, Exempt position.

5.14 Communication: Ines, Castro, Member, Board of Health, re: Resignation - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file, advertise the vacancy in Seven Days and send a letter of appreciation to Ines Castro thanking her for her time served as a member of the Board of Health.

5.15 Communication: Jonathan Davies, re: Visiting Burlington - waive the reading and place the communication on file.

5.16 Communication: William Coleman, re: Burlington - waive the reading and place the communication on file.

5.17 Communication: Coco Weishaar, re: homeless people – waive the reading and place the communication on file.

5.18 Special Event Outdoor Entertainment Permit Application (one day only): OSNS Entertainment, Lakeview Patio, 1 Main Street Landing, July 3rd, 4:00 pm - 11:00 pm - approve the one day only special event outdoor entertainment permit application for OSNS Entertainment, Lakeview Patio, 1 Main Street Landing, July 3rd, 4:00 pm - 11:00 pm.

5.19 FIO Documents – for information only.

5.20 Ordinance: CDO 0 Emergency Shelters ZA-24-03 (Planning, Planning Commission) – waive the reading and refer to the Ordinance Committee.
5.21 Resolution: Authorization For $12,886,920 Step II Loan From Vermont Clean Water State Revolving Fund And For $2,077,120 Amended Engineering Contract With Wright-Pierce For The Stage 0 Upgrade Of The City's Three Wastewater Treatment Plants (Board of Finance) – waive the reading and adopt the resolution.
5.22 Resolution: Approving The Issuance Of Grant Anticipation Notes For The Costs Of Certain Airport Improvement Projects (Board of Finance) - waive the reading and adopt the resolution.
5.23 Resolution: Release of Certain Glebe And Perpetual Lease-Land Interests And Revision Of The City Of Burlington Perpetual Lease-Land Interests List (Councilor Traverse) – waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

MOTION by Councilor Shannon, SECOND by Councilor Grant, to approve the consent agenda as amended and take the actions indicated for items 5.1-5.23.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

6. DELIBERATIVE AGENDA

6.1 Request to Execute a Construction Manager at RISK (CMAR) Contract with Engelberth Construction, Inc. (ECI) for Project NexT the North Concourse Replacement Project to accept and execute a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Application and accept and execute a Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) grant for design, construction manager at risk coordination and selection, pricing, construction in section and construction of the North Concourse Replacement Project “Project NexT” – Airport
Director Longo began by noting that the purpose of this project is to accommodate the changes that are happening in the aviation industry, which entails accommodating larger aircraft, and to build for that flexibility with this new termina. He said that the project is three stories tall, is approximately 25,000 square feet on the first and second floors. He said that they will widen the hallway space that goes to two airline partners, creating more room for passengers at gates to access the aircraft. He said that the project has been designed for purpose, but also for sustainability.

Sustainability Director Lackey spoke about the construction of geothermal wells, which will heat and cool the building. He said that they analyzed using steel versus mass timber, and have determined that mass timber is more environmentally friendly. He noted that there will be solar panels on the roof of the terminal.

Jeff Bartley spoke about the third floor of the terminal, which is where the Airport will move its offices. He said that it will also have a dedicated event space and a patio for observing flight takeoffs and landings. He noted that this patio space will be available to the general public.

Director Longo noted that this is the largest contract and project the airport has had in its history, and that it is being very thoughtfully phased so as to not interfere with daily operations at the airport.

Chief Financial Officer Friedman then spoke about the financial components of the project. She noted that there are three requests before the City Council tonight for this project. She said that the first is a construction at risk managerial contract, which was secured through a competitive process, and they have had a contractor manage the project in a way that has saved the City a significant amount of funding on design, and has streamlined the remainder of the construction process. She said that this request is for the authorization to execute the construction contract with Engelberth Construction. She spoke about a second authorization for about $8 million of FAA funding. She spoke about funding sources, which include a Congressionally-directed spending source of $34 million, Airport Terminal Project funding, and bipartisan infrastructure funding. She noted that 90% of the funding is coming from the federal level, though there are some portions of the project that are not eligible for funding, which include any spaces that don't have the public moving through them (such as relocating the offices to the third floor of the new terminal). She noted that the Airport receives about $500,000 per year from the State of Vermont toward the 6% grant match. She also noted that they can cover the remainder through the Airport's passenger facility charges. She also noted a request for City Council approval of the Northern Border Regional Commission timber grant for $1.8 million.

Councilor Kane asked why this project is occurring, given that the Airport is already the second busiest airport on the region, and why the Airport hasn't stayed current in its infrastructure. Director Longo replied that this project seeks to keep the Airport competitive with industry changes that are coming. He noted that many other airports in New England have done upgrades to their terminals. He noted that the number of operations that contribute to why BTV is the second busiest airport in New England is because of the various types of operations, such as commercial and military services. He noted that the terminal was constructed in the 1950s and has been added onto, but the section being replaced is small and was designed for very small aircraft. He said that the current terminal does not have enough hall space to service four 200-passenger planes at once, and it presents constraints related to building code, fire code, and density. He noted that he anticipates a commercial volume decrease but a seat capacity increase, given that this will allow for larger aircraft flying at a decreased frequency per day.

Councilor Bergman asked about the local share and how drawing down local funds impacts the fiscal health of the airport. Chief Financial Officer Friedman replied that the passenger facility charges are held in a restricted fund and are not allowed for use for airport operations, and must seek authority to use them for specific projects. She said that this account contains just under $9 million currently. Director Longo also noted that the Airport's days cash on hand is the highest it has ever been, and the financial health of the Airport is strong.

Councilor Litwin asked about the security review process for the public viewing patio, especially given the location at the Airport of the National Guard, and what types of security protocols are being implemented. He also asked that the Airport consider improvements in communications protocols between the Airport and the remainder of the City's administrative leadership, if larger aircrafts will start to come to the Airport. Director Longo replied that there was full TSA and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) review and approval of the public viewing platform proposal, and that there will be a check-in area for visitors. He said that related to improved communications, this is part of a larger discussion that he would like to have with the Council and Mayor's Office.

Councilor Broderick asked if the number of flights and number of people flying through BTV will increase or decrease based on these improvements, and Director Longo replied that these improvements are meant to ensure that demand is met in this area, and it currently isn't being met.

Councilor Grant said that having more people on a single plane and having fewer flights could be beneficial, from an emissions perspective.

MOTION by Councilor Barlow, SECOND by Councilor Litwin, to 1. Approve and authorize the Director of Aviation to execute a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) contract with Engelberth Construction Inc. (ECI) in the amount of up to $47,931,525.00 with a 15% contingency totaling up to $55,121,253.90, as allowed by the grant for the construction of Project NexT – North Concourse Replacement Project, subject to review and approval of the City Attorney's Office; 2. Approve and authorize the Director of Aviation to execute an additional grant from the FAA to accept an amount up to $6,922,436, with a 15% contingency totaling up to $7,960,801.40, as allowed under the grant, for design, construction manager at risk coordination and selection, pricing, construction in section and construction of the North Concourse Replacement Project "Project NexT" Grant Application subject to review by the City Attorney's Office; and 3. Approve and accept and execute a Northern Borders

Regional Commission (NBRC) Grant in the amount of up to $1,778,400.00 for utilization of domestic mass timber construction materials in construction of the North Concourse Replacement Project "Project NexT", subject to review by the City Attorney's Office.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

6.2 Annual Appropriation And Budget For Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024 And Ending June 30, 2025 (Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak; Board of Finance)
Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak began by saying that this budget begins important multi-year work to right-size the City's government in order to sustain services in an affordable and strategic way. She said that it raises revenue in a way that keeps affordability in mind. She said that it is balanced, even with the $14.2 million budget gap that needed to be addressed. She spoke positively of the collaboration with department heads on the budget and closing the budget gap. She said that she has worked in good faith with the City Council, which bodes well for a stronger local government and developing compromises. She said that this is a community-safety-focused budget, noting that it increases investments in public safety over FY24 by $4.6 million. She said that this includes $2.47 million more in operating investments in the Police Department, $1.4 million more in operating investments in the Fire Department, fully funds another year of the Community Response Team pilot in the Fire Department, $150,000 in funding for private security and a social worker for the Library, $50,000 in basic supports for the unhoused in Burlington, fully funding 11 Community Safety Officers (CSOs) positions, fully staffs firefighters, includes funding for 10 more sworn officers in the Police Department, and the creation of a position as an advisor in the Mayor's Office on public safety. She said that the budget also begins important sustainability work, including reducing reliance on one-time funds, right-size City government by reducing the growth rate of General Fund expenditures, and diversifying how to raise revenue. She said that this budget did not include a single layoff for FY25, though she acknowledged that there are going to be structural challenges to staffing in the future. She extended gratitude to staff that have worked tirelessly in putting this budget together.

Chief Administrative Officer Schad provided a final FY25 budget presentation. She began by outlining the budget principles that informed the budget. She provided an overview of General Fund growth from FY22 to FY25, noting that the year-over-year increase from FY24 to proposed FY25 is 6.9% or $7 million. She spoke about the total impact of increases from FY24 to FY25, which include the educational tax, municipal tax, electricity rate increases, water rate increases, and recycling rate increases, which result in an average monthly increase of $64.99 on a $300,000 home, $101.53 on a $500,000 home, and $138.12 on a $700,000 home. She spoke about how each of the budget principles ties into aspects of the budget. She spoke about the commitment to affordability by implementing only 2 cents of the 3 cent authorization for the public safety tax increase. She spoke about identifying sustainable financial practices, including implementing findings from the User Fee study, which entails an upward adjustment in some fees in order to cover expenses. She spoke about right-sizing the government by providing what the community needs, by holding 18 positions vacant and implementing the Operational Efficiency study. She spoke about being fair in raising new revenue across the entire community, which includes implementing a consumption tax increase in addition to the public safety tax increase. She spoke about how the budget reflects the priorities of the City, including community safety, maintenance of City services, and creating good processes for the public to engage in larger questions on right-sizing City government. She spoke about looking ahead to FY26 and beyond, given that many of the FY25 budget challenges are likely to intensify in future years.

MOTION by Councilor Kane, SECOND by Councilor Carpenter, to waive the reading and adopt the resolution.
DISCUSSION:

- **Councilor Kane expressed appreciation for avoidance of layoffs, as well as using gross receipts tax increases in addition to increases in the public safety tax. He said that the budget is thoughtfully crafted. He said he looks forward to beginning to work on the FY26 budget soon.**

- Councilor Bergman thanked the Mayor and staff for their work on this budget, as well as other Councilors. He said that this is a bipartisan budget and reflects a commitment to the health and welfare of the residents of the City. He said that this increase in the gross receipts tax really represents a down payment on progressive tax relief and reform. He spoke about the funding of affordable housing and commitments to climate change. He expressed support for this budget.
- Councilor Litwin echoed thanks to the Mayor and staff for their work on this budget. He said that he looks forward to seeing the findings of the Efficiency Study, and said that FY26 will be a tough discussion. He asked if Chief Administrative Officer Schad can provide updates to the Board of Finance on collections and the status of the amounts collected. Chief Administrative Officer Schad replied that yes, this will be part of that monthly review at the Board of Finance.
- Councilor Barlow echoed thanks to the Mayor and staff for the work on this budget and collaboration. He said that he will support this budget, and expects the FY26 budget to be even more challenging. He said he looks forward to implementing any recommendations that come out of the Efficiency Study. He spoke about the characterization of the budget gap, saying that he disagreed with how it was calculated and characterized. He noted that the increase in the retirement costs shouldn't be included in the gap, given that the solution is to commensurately increase the retirement tax. He said he believes the gap is overstated by $2.73 million. He also acknowledged that simply increasing the sworn officer count is enough to address the public safety crisis in the City.
- Councilor Broderick said that the City needs to radically change how it generates revenue, saying that the current model is regressive and harms those at the bottom of the income bracket. He said that the City should be looking at how it can equitably increase revenue, and looks forward to working on this.
- Councilor Grant thanked the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer for their transparency in communicating on this budget to the public. She said she looks forward to implementing the Efficiency Study as part of the planning for the FY26 budget. She expressed the importance of tracking how the money being put into public safety is used well and there is accountability for it.
- Councilor Shannon thanked the Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer, and Chief of Staff for restoring the CSO positions and funding the Housing Administrator position. She said that there has never been a budget deficit, but there has always been a budget gap. She spoke about how during Covid the City was able to access one-time ARPA funding, but that that is no longer an option. She said that the City is on good footing to begin working collaboratively on the FY26 budget. She said that in terms of increased retirement costs, it would be important to look into what is driving that increase.
- Councilor Carpenter spoke about the high priority of public safety in the City. She asked that the City continue to explore how to spread out the financial burden of what are truly regional issues to other surrounding municipalities. She said that other municipalities and the State need to understand this and understand what the City is financially contributing to tackle these issues.
- Councilor Neubieser thanked the Mayor and staff for their work on this budget. He spoke about the transparency and honest process, bipartisanship, long-term planning for sustainability, and addressing the needs of the lower and middle classes. He expressed support for the holistic investments in public safety, including increased sworn officers, increased CSOs, harm reduction, and public health, and expressed support for the affordability focus the budget takes.
- Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak spoke about the retirement debt service component of the budget, saying that including it as a component in budget presentations was one way for her Administration to be transparent about how the City is spending taxpayer money.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

6.3 Resolution: Annual Tax Assessments On The Property Grand List Of The City For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024 And Ending June 30, 2025 (Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak; Board of Finance)
Chief Administrative Officer Schad said that this relates to obtaining the City Council's authority to assess taxes based on the resolution that was just approved related to the FY25 budget. She said that the tax resolution lays out the details of the 18 splinter taxes and how they are apportioned.

MOTION by Councilor Bergman, SECOND by Councilor Grant, to waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

6.4 Ordinance: Restaurant, Hotel, Amusement and Admission Taxes BCO Sec. 21-31 (Councilors Shannon, Bergman, Traverse)

MOTION by Councilor Shannon, SECOND by Councilor McKnight, to waive the reading, suspend the rules, adopt the amendments to Chapter 21, Section 31 of the Burlington Code of Ordinances as detailed in the ordinance form attached as Attachment B, which amends the version of the ordinance sponsored by the Ordinance Committee by eliminating the reporting requirements and sunset proposed by the Committee, and place the amendment in all stages of passage.
<u>DISCUSSION:</u>

- **Councilor Shannon said that the Ordinance Committee reviewed a version of this prior to subsequent discussion around the budget. She said that they kept portions of the public safety components out of this ordinance, given that they were added back into the budget upon collaboration with the Mayor. She said that they also made amendments to ultimately not sunset the hotel tax, as well as to not include reporting requirements on the gross receipts tax in the ordinance. She said that this amendment is consistent with current discussion with the Mayor's Office on where the FY25 budget landed. <u>Councilor Shannon made a friendly amendment that the hotel tax would not be a temporary rate and would not sunset, that the .5% increase on the gross receipts tax would sunset next year and need review again, and that the reporting requirement is no longer in this ordinance.</u>**
- **Councilor Bergman said that he will push for not sunsetting the increase in the gross receipts tax at the end of FY25.**
- **Chief Administrative Officer Schad made a clarifying point that this ordinance will go into effect on August 1, 2024.**
- **Councilor Kane said that he would also support not sunsetting the gross receipts tax increase.**
- **Councilor McKnight said that she is supportive of the approach of increasing the gross receipts tax, which shifts some of the burden of raising revenue away from the residents of the City. She said that the number one issue raised by constituents is the unlawfulness of conditions in downtown Burlington. She needs that the City needs to fix what is going on downtown, given that this increase in gross receipts tax is reliant on a healthy downtown economy for part of its budget.**
- **Councilor Neubieser said he will support this, but also echoed concerns with any sunsetting of increases. He noted that in 2023, foot traffic on Church Street for the first 8 months of the year was on par with the 3 years prior to Covid, which is good news. He said that while one of the issues is public safety, another one of the issues is people not having enough money to spend it on downtown businesses.**
- **Councilor Grant said that some businesses have expressed concerns that the uptick in foot traffic is a data point that is being used against them and their concerns about crime. She spoke about how the historic North End has dealt with this drug crisis and has not been able to get help for years, and that it is only coming to light because it has spread**

downtown. She thanked the new Administration for addressing some of the issues that have not been addressed before. She said that the City needs to hold the Police Department accountable for lack of creative thinking.

- **Councilor Shannon agreed that the City needs to be partnering with downtown businesses to provide support and tackle safety issues.**
- **Councilor Kane spoke about the inequities of the City's tax system, saying that the gap between the appraised value and market value of homes is almost $3,000 per property per year, which harms those in lower economic brackets.**
- **Councilor Barlow said that the City should be mindful that some businesses will have to pay both increased property taxes and gross receipts taxes.**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1. Verbal reports

Councilor Bergman noted that the Charter Change Committee meeting will be taking up the police oversight charter change at its June 25th meeting at 645 Pine Street, and he anticipates being able to pass that out of committee and back to the Council in time for meeting deadlines on a November ballot.

Councilor Barlow noted that the Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee will meet tomorrow at 5:30 PM at 645 Pine Street, and will discuss planning for the building emissions reduction ordinance and the review of the rental weatherization ordinance, as well as discussing GMT funding and planning, as well as the recently-proposed Bank and Cherry Street design concepts.

Councilor Carpenter noted that the HR Committee has been discussing a more robust evaluation of department heads and exploring providing 360 reviews in the next year.

Councilor McKnight said that the Parks, Arts, and Culture Committee will meet this Thursday at 12:00 PM, and will discuss the clear-cutting incident at Kieslich Park, as well as discussing encampment-related data from the parks.

Councilor Shannon said that the Ordinance Committee will meet on July 1st at 11:00 AM and will discuss the graffiti ordinance and the trespass ordinance, as well as a brief introduction to the condominium conversion ordinance.

Councilor Grant said that the Public Safety Committee will meet on July 18 and the Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee will next meet on July 9th. She said that the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Embrace Belonging monument in Dewey Park will be on Wednesday at 11:00 AM.

Councilor Neubieser noted that the Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee will meet on July 17 at 6:30 PM in the Sharon Bushor Conference Room.

8. CITY COUNCIL – GENERAL AFFAIRS

8.1. Verbal reports

Councilor Neubieser spoke about an organization that is trying to roll back progress the community has made around expanding the vote and strengthening democracy through all-resident voting. He said that it is important to be cognizant of organizations like these, which are funded by extreme right-wing mega-donors.

Councilor Grant noted the override of the Governor's veto around overdose prevention centers, and said that the City needs to start thinking about which organizations in the community would be best suited for this, as well as the location of the center. She also noted a community forum that occurred in St. Albans on June 18, and encouraged the public to tune into this, because St. Albans is confronting the same issues and concerns as Burlington.

Councilor Litwin said he looks forward to working on implementing the overdose prevention center resolution, and hopes that the City can have a transparent, open, and honest process from the beginning, to address concerns that people have raised around siting and zoning of the center. He spoke about looking into whether there can be advanced notice of when the F-35s are flying overhead, to allow people with auditory sensitivities more time to take precautions like putting on headphones. He said he would like to see more dialogue on the encampment response, and would like a working session around this.

9. CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT – COUNCIL UPDATES

9.1. Verbal reports
City Council President Traverse noted that the elevator will not be in service on July 15, and City Council will not be able to utilize Contois Auditorium for its next meeting. He said that he is looking for input on where to hold the next City Council meeting within the community. He also noted that they will be hosting a joint meeting with the Burlington School Board on July 15 as well.

10. MAYOR – GENERAL AFFAIRS

10.1. Verbal reports
Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak suggested holding the next City Council meeting at the Old North End Community Center or the Miller Center. She then provided general updates from the Mayor's Office, City highlights, her engagement efforts in the community, and regional, state, and legislative activity updates. She spoke about the public safety community advisors bringing proposals to the Mayor and Council at their next meeting. She spoke about reviewing the extensive feedback from the Council's working session on encampments, and what pieces of that can be incorporated into working on this chronic issue. She spoke about work the CJC is doing to put together a forum for local conversations around the Israel/Palestine issue. She said that she anticipates bringing a candidate for City Attorney to the Council for its consideration on July 15th. She noted that she is appointing Lynn Reagan as the interim Human Resources director while recruitment efforts are underway. She spoke about work to identify and deal with hot spots around the City. She spoke about engaging the community around the Decker Towers situation, and said that they are working on both temporary and permanent solutions to its issues. She spoke about engaging with CATMA around public transportation. She spoke about a series of Mayor Meetups in the community. She spoke about the very successful Juneteenth event that was hosted on June 15th. She spoke about more regional coordination with Town Managers, particularly around the unhoused issue. She said that she had a debrief with the City's State delegation on legislative activities for this past session.

11. ADJOURNMENT

11.1 Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned without objection at 9:20 PM.

RScty: AACoonradt